

12.106 UNIVERSITY AIR CARE HELICOPTER

References:

Procedure 12.145 - Plan for Major Disasters, Aircraft
Crashes and other Incidents Requiring
Coordination with Other Agencies
Standards Manual 1.3.5, 61.2.3

Information:

University Air Care (UAC) is a hospital based emergency helicopter service, available as a second responder to a medical emergency.

The service is available 7 days/24 hours for direct scene and inter-hospital transfer of critically ill or injured patients. The UAC carries a flight team consisting of an emergency physician, specially trained flight nurse, and experienced pilot.

Helicopter liftoff is normally 3-5 minutes from the time of dispatch. If the patient is trapped or the journey to the hospital is likely to be delayed or long, the helicopter brings the hospital to the patient.

Medical emergencies that may necessitate the use of the UAC helicopter are:

1. Vehicle crash entrapments.
2. Industrial accident entrapments.
3. Instances where a person has been shot, remote locations, etc.
4. Patient's condition requires intensive medical attention enroute to the hospital.
5. Mass casualties/disasters.
 - a. Air Care will transport triage teams and additional medical supplies.

Policy:

When a Fire Division Paramedic Unit or Emergency Medical Service (EMS) personnel are on the scene, the decision to use the UAC helicopter is their responsibility. Fire Division personnel will request the UAC helicopter through Fire Dispatch.

When a Fire Division Unit is not on the scene or is delayed, a police officer may request the UAC helicopter to respond or go on standby through Police Communications Section (PCS).

Only Fire Division personnel can cancel the UAC helicopter, once it has been requested to respond or go on standby.

Upon arrival, Fire Division personnel will relieve Police Division personnel of responsibility for the injured and will call or cancel the helicopter response as required.

Procedure:**A. UAC Helicopter Request:**

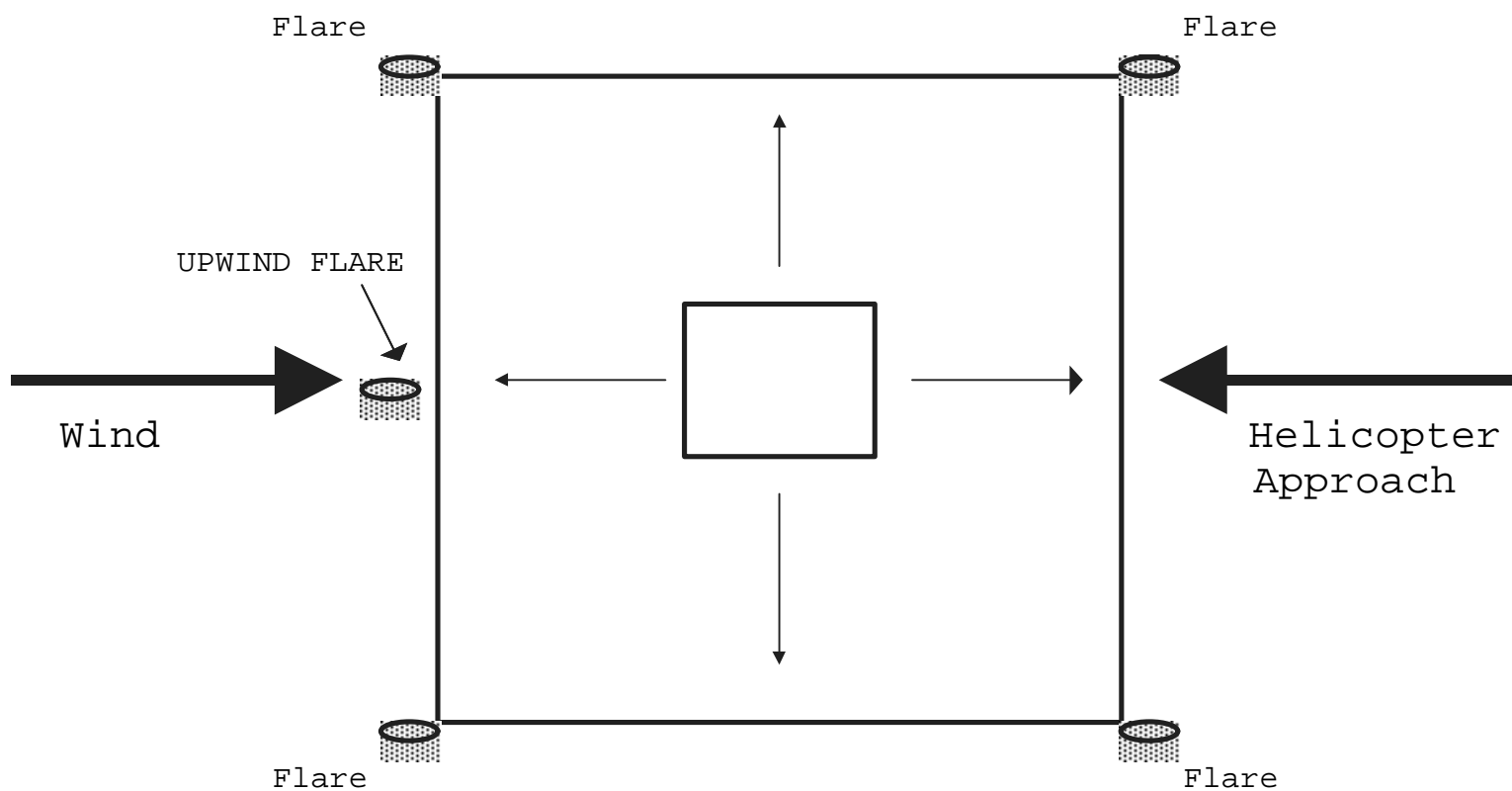
1. A police officer at the scene of a medical emergency may request a UAC helicopter by contacting PCS.
 - a. PCS will:
 - 1) Immediately notify Fire Dispatch of the need for UAC to respond or go on standby.
 - a) Relay to Fire Dispatch all available information concerning the incident; location, type of injury, number of persons, etc.
 - 2) Notify all police personnel at the scene to switch to Channel 8.
 - a) Air Care has access to Channel 8 and Fire Channel 3.
 - b. Fire Dispatch will:
 - 1) Immediately contact UAC with the

necessary information.

B. Police Responsibilities in a UAC Response to a Medical Emergency:

1. When fire personnel arrive, advise them Air Care is responding.
2. Use the radio designations "Air Care One" or "Air Care Two" when a UAC helicopter responds to an emergency.
3. Prior to the helicopter's arrival, identify a specific landing site that is:
 - a. Fairly flat and at least 100 feet by 100 feet square.
 - b. Reasonably clear of debris, glass, cans, wood, plastic bags, car hoods, etc., that can be blown or picked up by the helicopter's downwash and cause injury to persons on or near the landing site or interfere with helicopter operation. You may expect a wind of 60 to 70 mph from the helicopter.
 - c. Clear of overhead obstructions, such as telephone and power lines.
 - d. At least one mile upwind, when flammable or poisonous vapors are involved.
4. Notify the pilot, on Channel 8, of the location and height of any nearby wires.
5. At night, mark the four corners of the landing site and the center of the windward edge with flares. Use flashlights as a substitute for flares if there is danger of starting a fire (see attached diagram). An alternate method of marking corners is to use police cars or apparatus with flashing lights.

- a. Point headlights or auxiliary lights down and toward the center of the landing site to avoid blinding the pilot.
 - b. At night, do not use flashbulbs or allow lights to be pointed at the helicopter while it is airborne. This includes television camera lights.
6. Wear eye protection when the helicopter is landing and taking off.
 - a. District lieutenants' and two Traffic Unit field supervisors' vehicles are equipped with safety goggles for this purpose.
7. Keep unauthorized personnel and vehicles at least 100 feet away from the helicopter.
8. Keep clear of the helicopter unless accompanied by a crew member.
 - a. Never move toward the helicopter until signaled by the flight crew. Always approach and leave the helicopter from the front.
 - b. Avoid the tail rotor area.
 - c. Do not run or smoke near the helicopter.
9. There is no standard helicopter ground to blade height. Be very careful when walking under the blades.
 - a. Do not carry IV's or other objects above your head. Carry large objects parallel to the ground.
10. The police officer in charge at the scene will ensure the completion of all appropriate reports.
 - a. Prepare an Aided Case Report (Form 316) if no other reports are required.



NIGHT LANDING ZONE MARKINGS

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